

REMARKS

This Amendment has revised the application which is now believed to be in allowable condition for reasons discussed below.

The presently claimed invention involves apparatus for forming heated glass sheets and includes a housing having a heated chamber and an upper mold support assembly for supporting an upper mold within the heated chamber for cyclical vertical movement between upper and lower positions. A lower mold shuttle of the apparatus is recited for supporting a lower mold for cyclical movement between an idle position horizontally spaced from the upper mold and a use position below the upper mold. The apparatus is also recited as including a lower mold support assembly to which the lower mold is cyclically transferred from the lower mold shuttle in the use position to provide support thereof while permitting horizontal alignment of the lower mold with the upper mold as necessary upon each cycle of downward movement of the upper mold for cooperation of the molds to form a heated glass sheet between the molds.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the United States Patent 5,092,916 McMaster in view of United States Patent 5,445,508 Kubo et al. In the McMaster patent, the mold support that moves horizontally, specifically the lower mold shuttle 20, is not cyclically moved into alignment as necessary with the other mold support, specifically the upper mold support 26; but rather the reverse is the case -- specifically the upper mold support 26 is movable into alignment with the lower mold shuttle 20.

Furthermore, in the Kubo et al. 5,445,508 patent, the invention disclosed is a vulcanizing mold setting apparatus for tire vulcanizing which is respectfully submitted to be a non-analogous art to the glass sheet forming art involved with the present invention. Furthermore, the centering device provided by the hole 30 in the mold supporting plate and the centering ring 47 as best illustrated in Figure 5 provide alignment of the mold assembly

21 but do not cyclically provide alignment between the lower and upper molds 7 and 8 in the matter involved with the present invention.


Thus, it is respectfully submitted that even if one assumes for purposes of argument to combine the teachings of the McMaster and Kubo et al. patent, there still would be no provision of the claimed invention since these references singly and in combination do not teach or in any way suggest the claimed invention as discussed above.

The rejection of claims 13 and 16 over McMaster in view of Kubo et al. and further in view of United States Patent 4,470,838 McMaster et al. and the rejection of claim 15 over McMaster in view of Kubo et al. and McMaster et al. and further in view of United States Patent 5,643,615 Austin are also believed to be inappropriate for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 5.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in an allowable condition such that it is appropriate to hereby respectfully solicit its allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Nitschke et al.

By 

James A. Kushman

Reg. No. 25,634

Attorney/Agent for Applicant

Date: March 16, 1999

BROOKS & KUSHMAN P.C.

1000 Town Center, 22nd Floor

Southfield, MI 48075

Phone: 248-358-4400

Fax: 248-358-3351